

From: Kyle Putnam
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 5:06pm
Subject: More than just a slap on the wrist

Good Evening,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft. I haven't been following it recently, but news reports make it sound like the settlement has already been accepted and is in effect.

Anyway, I think that the government is going easy on Microsoft because of the current economic conditions. It may be true that the latest version of Windows requires new hardware, and will increase both hardware and software sales, but it will also cause a further monopoly for Microsoft over the PC software market.

For example, Windows XP recommends that its users sign up for a Microsoft Passport account, but uses words like "You won't be able to use the internet services without signing up with a Passport account. Click here to get one." New users will think it is required to use the Internet at all, and as Microsoft pushes its Passport technology to Amazon, eBay, and several other major retailers, they will gain another fist around the neck of the technology market.

I think Windows XP should have DEFINITELY been put on hold until a decision was finalized about the case. The analogy has been made before, although it is not quite the same magnitude, that letting Microsoft release Windows XP while Microsoft is on trial is like letting a serial killer buy handguns and kill more people while he is on trial.

I think the punishment against Microsoft must be swift and harsh, no matter what the state of the economy is. The technology stock market didn't really fall, it was only hype that made it appear so big in the past, and Microsoft can't change this.

Splitting the companies divisions such as the Windows, Internet Explorer & Media Player, Office, Hardware, Xbox, PC Video Games, and all other factions of the company should be actual separate companies. Different names, different CEOs, and all in competition with each other.

The fact that Microsoft has gotten this far is plain appalling. Anything possible solution is that Microsoft should be forced to release source code, specifications, or other information on its products.

Microsoft lately has shown no responsibility for its poorly designed, insecure software such as Windows NT, Windows 2000, and especially IIS. As I am sure you are aware, they have drafted an agreement between

business partners (and worse yet, security companies) that forbids them from releasing detailed information on a security exploit. They claim this will make things more secure, but time has proven over and over that obscurity leads to insecurity.

I urge you to take swift action against Microsoft, and action much stronger than the proposed (or already effective) settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft. Don't you think Microsoft has had its time to get rich, (in)famous, and "innovate"?

Kyle